ABERDEEN-ANGUS CATTLE

The Black Cattle in America—Some Notable Records.

Distinguished Worth in Milking Qualities.

Though perhaps the first Aberdeen-Angus animal that ever trod American soil was the cow Duchess which went from Portlethen in 1850, it was not until 1873 that stock was imported for the express purpose of improving the range cattle. In that year the late George Grant, of Victoria, Kansas, imported three bulls, two of which he exhibited at the Kansas City Fair—the first polls that ever appeared in an American showyard. These bulls, which created much interest, were the forerunners of the great influx which occurred a few years later as a result of the world-wide renown the breed had acquired by winning the two champion group prizes in Paris in 1878.

These bulls were used upon the common stock of the range, horned and coarse, and they changed the "complexion" and appearance of the old stock. Many halfbred steers from these Aberdeen-Angus bulls were fed by a number of feeders and gave them a foretaste of the quality that lay beneath the black skins. In 1876 James MacDonald, the late secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, visited the ranch and reported them as doing splendidly. In 1876 there were probably more than 800 black polled calves after them, declared to have been superior to any ever seen in those parts before. They were short-legged, big around the girth; vigorous, healthy, and thoroughly at home. They proved themselves superior in every way to the Shorthorn and other crosses; standing the winters better, coming out in remarkable condition, without the necessity of artificial food or coddling, as the other breeds required. It is a pity Mr. Grant did not live to reap the benefit of his foresight, which would have been his in good measure. Yet his work followed after him. In 1883, there were sold in the Stock Yard at Kansas City, fourteen halfbred Aberdeen-Angus steers, the produce of the Grant bulls. They were bought by Chas. Still, at $4.25, averaging 1,038 lbs. in weight, and then they were not "full-fed."

The inquiry from America had just begun after the Paris Exposition. Perhaps the first to seriously inquire into the opportunities for importing the breed was Mr. Libbey, editor of the "Rural New Yorker," who visited Scotland and made an investigation of the breed. Then John Wallace, publisher of the American Trotting Register and "Wallace's Monthly," wrote to Tillyfour about them, having become interested with his friend, Mr. Redfield, of Batavia, N. Y., one of the first importers.

What might be termed the parent herd of America was that formed by Anderson & Findlay, Lake Forest, Ill. Mr. Findlay was indeed a native of Buchan and had retained all the affection for the native "humlies" that everyone acquainted with them in youth undoubtedly is bound to preserve. In the summer of 1878 Anderson & Findlay commissioned Mr. Findlay, of Peterhead, Scotland, brother of the latter, to purchase five heifers and a bull from the best herds; which commission was followed by others. Anderson & Findlay exhibited their importations at the Illinois and other fairs.

The Breed in Dual-Purpose Field.

The record of the breed as a beef champion has become so thoroughly established that it might be supposed it has made no pretensions to milking honors. Nevertheless, the Aberdeen-Angus breed produced the champion at the great show of the British Dairy-Farmers' Association, held in London, 1892.

The victory was certainly a great feather in the cap of the breed and the Aberdeen "Free Press," in reporting the event, said: "To those who know the history of the breed, the position taken by J. F. Spencer's six-year-old polled cow, Black Bess, will hardly occasion surprise. The victory will probably stimulate breeders to give more attention to the milking qualities of their cattle." This would indicate that good milkers were common enough then to occasion no great remark.

This cow was not a singular instance by any means; there are many like her being bred today.

Prof. Brown, of the Ontario College of Agriculture, made extensive tests in regard to the specific gravity of milk from different breeds and found that the Aberdeen-Angus recorded 111.0; the Hereford grade, 106.0; Shorthorn grade and the Ayrshire, 103.0; Hereford, 91.0; Shorthorn, 86.0. When the records of yield of butter from milk by weight were secured they showed that the Aberdeen-Angus also stood first with 3.72 per cent, followed by the Hereford grades, 2.54 per cent; Shorthorn grades, 2.31 per cent, and Herefords, 2.01 per cent.

(Fourth of a series of articles on the purebred cattle industry, containing facts and figures of striking importance and value to every farmer and stock raiser. For free illustrated literature, history, show records and list of American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association members, address Chas. Gray, Secy., Record Bldg., Union Stock Yards, Chicago.)

LIVE STOCK

MOST ECONOMICAL OF FEEDS

Better Use of Cheap Roughage or Farm By-Products Should Be Practice of Stockmen.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Stockmen should make better use of cheap roughage or farm by-products such as cornstalks or straw in wintering beef cows, is the opinion of specialists of the United States department of agriculture after making a survey of nearly 500 stock farms in the corn belt. The records which they obtained show that there is no fixed rule that should govern the quality or the kind of feeds used except that the ration should be adequate and economical.

Whether the coarse feeds of the ration shall be composed mostly of hay, fodder, silage, or grain, will depend on disparity on local and seasonal conditions.

In years when there is a serious shortage of corn, farmers will find it necessary greatly to reduce the quantity of the corn that ordinarily is fed as grain or fodder or silage. That this can be done under many circumstances is evident from a study of the records. They show that a ration which does not contain corn fodder either as grain or in fodder or silage can be fed without any detriment whatever to the cows or their offspring. There were 149 of the farms studied feeding such rations, the majority of them in Kansas and Nebraska, and they produced as good calves as the farms feeding corn. The winter feed bill on these farms was $13.10 per cow, as against an average of $16.60 for those using grain, fodder, or silage, showing a saving of $3.50 per head due to elimination of corn.

The use of such a grainless ration, which on these farms consisted solely of hay and cheap roughage, is, of course, not always possible or practicable. If this type of ration is to be economical, there must be an abundance of cheap hay to combine with the rough feeds; or, if the bulk of the ration consists of cheap roughage, which, unless there is some winter pasture, is largely composed of carbohydrates, there should be a sufficient amount of leguminous hay, such as alfalfa or clover, to supply the protein needs of the animal. In localities where there is a shortage of hay but where large quantities of cheap roughage, such as corn stover, straw, or damaged hay, is available, this cheap roughage often can be made to serve as the greater part of the ration by supplementing it with a small amount of some concentrate high in protein, such as cottonseed meal. The farmers in that portion of the corn belt lying west of the Missouri river, where alfalfa is grown abundantly, nearly always can plan an adequate ration without corn.

The fact that the 149 farms using the cheaper ration were not feeding

Good Pasture Is an Economical Home-Grown Feed.

corn does not imply that it should never be used, for there are farms where it is necessary to feed a moderate amount of grain. This is particularly true of cattlemen who are conducting a purebred business and who advertise their stock by exhibiting at the various live stock shows. The results of this study simply indicate that care should be taken that no unnecessary quantities of corn are fed.

There are 154 farms (not quite one-third of those studied) on which corn was fed to the breeding herd for at least part of the winter. The average winter feed bill for these farms was $17.10 per head, as against $14.80 for the cows receiving no grain. There were 58 of these farms where less than 10 per cent of the ration was composed of grain and where the cows received an average of 2 bushels of corn and 15 pounds of cottonseed meal per head during the winter. As 42 per cent of this winter ration consisted of cheap roughage and as the amount of feed used was not excessive, the cows were carried through the winter at an average cost of $14.60, or 9 cents a day. In the herds where grain constituted more than 10 per cent of the ration, the cows received an average of from 6 to 18 bushels of corn, much of which was unnecessary. The average cost of feed for wintering these cows ranged from $17.50 to more than $20 a head.

Probably one of the largest wastes of corn occurs in the feeding of unhusked corn fodder, which is extensively fed in sections where corn is the leading crop and where hay is scarce.

HER RING

By MARION C. LEESAM.

"Dick is leaving New York and coming home for a week's furlough," said Betty Saunders to her sister.

"I know it," said Jean, looking up from her knitting. "I was talking to his mother yesterday. It doesn't interest me, however."

"Oh, Jean, try to be nice to him this week. He's going South to learn to fly and then he's going to France. Why, if I were in your place I'd be planning to give him the best time while he is home. You can't do too much for those fellows."

"I know it," said Jean pensively, "but he did treat me so that night at the dance, just before he went away. He paid attention to that Wentworth girl half the night. Then he pretends he loves me. He doesn't know what love is. I'll never forgive him, either."

"I don't think he meant it," said Betty. "You probably imagined it. I know he's sorry you do not write him, because he writes the bluest letters home to his mother. Besides, you'd go far and near to find as nice a fellow as Dick."

"Oh, Betty, do stop raving over him. I tell you I've changed entirely toward Dick. I think Jack Somers is more of a man than Dick ever thought of being."

With that, Jean picked up her knitting and angrily walked upstairs.

Meanwhile, Dick Fulton, comfortably settling himself in the Pullman bound for Boston, breathed a deep sigh, whether of relief no one knows. He was glad he was going home.

After squaring himself with his own conscience he settled himself for forty winks and knew nothing until he heard the porter cry, "Boston, all out!" He pulled himself together and, grabbing his grip, hurried out, watching anxiously for some one to meet him. "Of course Jean wouldn't be there," he argued to himself. Yet he half hoped she had forgiven him. He hurried up the platform and saw his mother, waiting for him. In back of her was Betty, but Jean was nowhere to be seen.

"Oh, Dick, I'm so glad to see you," said Betty. "Though you have only been away ten weeks it seems like a year."

"It seems like that to me, too," said Dick, piloting Betty on one side and his mother on the other. "I had hoped Jean would meet me, but I suppose that was too much to expect."

"I'm sorry," said Betty. "I tried to persuade her to come. I told her it was no time to be worrying over such petty things."

"You're right," said Dick. "It is foolish. What do you say if we stay in town and have lunch and go to a show?" Dick was bound he was going to forget things for once.

"I think I'll go home," said Mrs. Fulton. "You two go and have a good time."

After leaving Mrs. Fulton on the train Dick and Betty started for an evening's fun. First, they got tickets at one of the best theaters and then found a little cafe and had a nice dinner.

"Dick, I've been wondering about Jean. It's too bad things are this way. Can't something be done to fix it up?"

Dick looked at her earnest face, never before realizing how strikingly pretty Betty was. Then she had so much sense, too, even though she was only two years older than Jean. He puffed his cigar slowly, thinking very deeply.

"I'll tell you what we can do," he said with a happy thought. "Let's go and pick out a diamond for Jean. I'll take it to her and surprise her. I know she'll forgive me."

"That would be fine," said Betty, her face brightening.

"What will fit your hand will fit Jean's, won't it?" said Dick as they sat before the tray of dazzling stones, trying to pick out just the right one.

Betty was as happy as though it were for herself, and many people turned to admire the happy couple, and Dick certainly looked manly in his uniform. As he watched her a pang went through his heart. Here was a girl who cared and knew what love was. Finally they picked out the one that Betty declared was a "beauty," and Dick stuffed it in his pocket. Then they hurried to the theater.

"I know she'll love it," whispered Betty while they were watching the play.

"Do you think so?" said Dick. A queer feeling came over him as Betty leaned near him, enjoying herself to her heart's content. "Betty has always been a good friend of mine, but surely I'm not falling in love with her," he thought. He paid little attention to the play, as he was battling out a problem in his own mind.

When leaving Betty that night, after what she pronounced a dandy time, he took her hand in his and whispered: "Betty, I want you to have this," slipping the ring on her finger. "It was just meant for you. I noticed that in the jeweler's."

"Why, Dick," Betty faltered, "What about Jean?"

"She doesn't care for me, Betty, dear; not the way I want some one to care for me after I go away."

"I always liked you," said Betty, "but I never believed you thought of me in this respect."

"I never realized it until today, but now I know what you are going to mean to me," said Dick, tenderly, putting his arm around her.

"I'm so very happy," said Betty, pressing the ring to her lips.